

[27 February, 2001)      RAJYA SABHA

- (vi) The units are being pursued to apply revised tariffs, issue bills promptly and do prompt disconnections for non-payment.

Buildings for Telephone Exchanges In Himachal Pradesh

† 587. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise and Taluka-wise names of the places in Himachal Pradesh where foundation stone was laid for construction of buildings for telephone exchanges during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken for construction of telephone exchanges in all those places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No foundation stone has been laid for the construction of building for Telephone Exchange by the Minister of Communications during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Discontinuation of Allotment of STD/PCO Facilities to Blind Persons

588. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken by Government to stop grant of permission for STD and PCOs for totally blind persons; if so, whether it is a policy decision or a one time decision;

(b) whether the facility of PCOs and STD in the name of the blind has been extended to offer such handicapped persons opportunities for self-employment and to lead an independent life with dignity; and

(c) the reasons for discontinuing such opportunities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, in the liberalised STTVPCO allotment Policy, a provision already exists

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for allotment of STDPCOs to handicapped persons including totally blind persons. No decision has been taken to discontinue such allotments.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

**Provision of Internet Facilities in Arunachal Pradesh**

589. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of towns/cities in Arunachal Pradesh where internet facilities have been provided;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Internet facilities have been provided at Along, Bomdila, Pasighat, Roing, Seppa, Itanagar, Tezu, Khonsa, Tawang, Ziro, Kimini, Namsai, Naharlagan, Chimpu, Doimukh, Nirjuli and Banderdewa. However, as on date there is no demand for Internet connection from Along, Roing, Tezu and Khonsa.

(b) and (c) Internet facility has not been provided at a few places due to technical reasons. The facility at these places will be provided subject to demand and technical feasibility.

**Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh**

590. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new telephone exchanges set up in Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the State during the next three years; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF